

**Microsoft Press**

# **Computer Dictionary**

Third Edition

**Microsoft® Press**

Continuation of Attachment(s) 6). Other: Dictionary definitions: "library"; "tally".

# **DICTIONARY OF COMPUTERS, INFORMATION PROCESSING, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

## **2ND EDITION**

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surface and a pen moves over it. cf. *drum plotter*.

**table simulator:** a computer program able to compute the values in a table rather than simply looking them up as stored.

**tablet:** in computer graphics, a locator device with a flat surface and a mechanism that converts indicated positions on the surface into coordinate data. (E)

**table word-processing equipment:** word-processing equipment designed as a stand-alone unit for operation on a desk or table. If it is not integrated word-processing equipment, its control unit may be designed also to stand on a desk, a table, or elsewhere. (D)

**tab stop:** the column position to which a printing device advances on receipt of an appropriate command.

**tabular language:** a means for stating programming requirements as decision tables. synonymous with *tab*.

**tabulate**

- (1) to format data into a table.
- (2) to print totals. (A)

**tabulating equipment:** machines and equipment that use punched cards. synonymous with *electronic accounting machines*.

**tabulation character:** see *horizontal tabulation character*, *vertical tabulation character*. (A)

**tabulator:** a device that reads data from a data carrier such as punched cards or punched tape, and produces lists, tables, or totals. (B)

**tabulator setting:** in word processing, the feature of a machine that enables tabulator settings to be entered onto the recording medium or into storage so that these settings may be used in subsequent operations. (D)

**tactile keyboard:** a keyboard display laid out on a flat surface. The character is registered by touching its key

location lightly with a finger.

**tag:** one or more characters, attached to a set of data, that contains information about the set, including its identification. (A) (B)

**tag converting device:** equipment that performs automatic reproduction of information from perforated price tags to punched cards.

**tag file:** tags stored as a file and used within a program to access directly all records stored in another file.

**tag sort:** a sort in which addresses of records (tags), and not the records themselves, are moved during the comparison procedures.

**tail:** a flag indicating the termination of a list.

**takedown:** pertaining to completion of one operating cycle prior to preparing the equipment for loading the next job.

**takedown time:** the time needed to complete a takedown activity.

**take-up reel:** a specific reel on which tape is wound or can be wound during processing.

**talk:** transferring data between two units (e.g., a computer and a terminal).

**talker echo:** see *echo, talker*.

**talk off:** false operation of in-band signaling receivers caused by customer speech simulating the supervisory tone for a sufficiently long interval (usually more than 150 ms) to cause accidental release of the connection. (F)

**tally:** an account of the number of times something has happened.

**tandem data circuit:** a data circuit that contains more than two data circuit-terminating equipments (DCEs) in series. (E)

**tandem exchange:** synonymous with *tandem office*.

**tandem office:** in general, an intermediate switching system for intercon-

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## legend

when a new version is installed. For example, will a new spreadsheet software release be able to read the existing business records without expensive and time-consuming conversion to a new format? Many legacy systems are based on mainframe computers, which are being slowly replaced in many organizations by client/server architectures. See also mainframe computer. Compare client/server architecture.

**Legend** \lej'ənd\ n. Text that describes or explains a graphic, usually printed below the graphic. On a graph or map, the legend is the key to the patterns or the symbols used.

**Lempel Ziv algorithm** \lem'pəl ziv' al'gə-ridhəm\ n. A mathematical algorithm designed to reduce a data file's size without sacrificing its integrity. See also .lzh.

**length** \length\ n. The number of linear units of storage space occupied by an object, such as a file on disk or a data structure in a program, typically measured in bits, bytes, or blocks.

**less than** \les' dhan\ adj. See relational operator. **less than or equal to** \les' dhan ər ē'kwəl tōō\ adj. See relational operator.

**letterbomb** \let'ər-bom\ n. An e-mail message that is intended to impair the recipient's computer use. Some sequences of control characters can lock up a terminal, files attached to the message may contain viruses, or Trojan horses, and a sufficiently large message can overflow a mailbox or crash a system. See also control character, e-mail<sup>1</sup> (definition 1), mailbox, Trojan horse, virus.

**letter quality** \let'ər kwä'lə-tē\ adj. Pertaining to or being a level of print quality on dot-matrix printers that is better than draft quality. As the name implies, letter quality is supposed to be crisp and dark enough for use in business letters. See also print quality. Compare draft quality, near-letter-quality.

**letter-quality printer** \let'ər kwä'lə-tē prin'tər\ n. Any printer that produces output high enough in quality to be acceptable for business letters. See also daisy-wheel printer, laser printer.

**level 1 cache** \lev'əl wən' kash\ n. See L1 cache.

**level 2 cache** \lev'əl tōō' kash\ n. See L2 cache.

**lexicographic sort** \leks'ə-kə-graf ik sōrt\ n. A sort that arranges items in the order in which they would appear if listed in a dictionary. A lexicographic sort puts numbers, for instance, where they would be if they were spelled out; for example, 567 would fall in the F's. Compare alphanumeric sort.

graphic sort puts numbers, for instance, where they would be if they were spelled out; for example, 567 would fall in the F's. Compare alphanumeric sort.

**lexicon** \leks'ə-kon\ n. 1. The words of a language and their definitions. 2. In programming, the identifiers, keywords, constants, and other elements of a language that make up its "vocabulary." The ways in which these vocabulary elements can be put together is the syntax of the language. Compare syntax.

**LF** \L-F\ n. See linefeed.

**LHARC** \l'H-A`R-C\ n. A freeware file-compression utility program developed by Haruyasu Yoshizaki and introduced in 1988. With LHARC, the contents of one or more files can be compressed into a singular, smaller file, with the extension .lha. A copy of the program is required to uncompress these files. LHARC can also embed a small program with the compressed information and save everything in a single file, called a self-extracting archive, with an .exe extension. As a result, the recipient of the compressed file does not need a separate utility program to uncompress the file. See also freeware, PKZIP, utility program.

**.li** \dot-L-I\ n. On the Internet, the major geographic domain specifying that an address is located in Liechtenstein.

**library** \lī'brərē, lī'brər-ē\ n. 1. In programming, a collection of routines stored in a file. Each set of instructions in a library has a name, and each performs a different task. 2. A collection of software or data files.

**library routine** \lī'brərē rōō-tēn', lī'brər-ē\ n. In programming, a routine stored in a collection of routines (a library) that can be used by any program that can link into the library. See also function library, library (definition 1).

**.lib.us** \dot-lib dot-U-S\, dot-L-I-B`dot-U-S\ n. On the Internet, the major geographic domain specifying that an address belongs to a library in the United States.

**license agreement** \lī'sens ə-grē'mənt\ n. A legal contract between a software provider and a user specifying the rights of the user regarding the software. Usually the license agreement is in effect with retail software once the user opens the software package.

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